



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

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March 22, 2004

Richard H. Carmona
Surgeon General
5600 Fishers Lane, #18-67
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Surgeon General Carmona:

I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as chair of the President's task force on drug importation. Your work is an important part of the effort needed to address the frightening rise in health care costs and I would like to offer my assistance in the review of prescription drug importation.

It is essential for the task force to hear from consumers and officials who have explored safe importation of prescription medicines. As you are aware, Minnesota has first-hand knowledge on the issue of safe, affordable importation of prescription drugs as an option for Minnesotans. Late last year, our Human Services department analyzed drug importation as an option for Minnesotans. The outcome of this effort was the successful development and implementation of a website, www.mnrconnect.com, designed as a resource for individuals seeking safe relief from the high cost of drugs in the United States. The results have been encouraging with reports of satisfaction and cost savings from consumers.

I believe that our experience would be beneficial to the efforts of this task force. For this reason, I would welcome the opportunity to share our experience as well as our safety assurances with you and the task force.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tim Pawlenty".

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

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